



**Superior Court
of the State of California
In and For
The County of Placer
Roseville, California**

COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICE

P.O. BOX 619072

ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95661

(916) 408-6186

FAX (916) 408-6188

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2011

Contact: Jake Chatters, CEO

(916) 408-6186

**SUPERIOR COURT OF PLACER COUNTY ANNOUNCES TWELVE (12)
LIMITED SERVICE DAYS IN FISCAL YEAR 2011/2012**

The Superior Court of Placer County will provide only limited services on the following dates:

November 21, 2011	December 28, 2011	March 23, 2012
November 22, 2011	December 29, 2011	April 27, 2012
November 23, 2011	December 30, 2011	May 25, 2012
December 27, 2011	January 27, 2012	June 15, 2012

The Court finds this action necessary due to the ongoing State fiscal crisis, which has resulted in multiple years of significant reductions in State funding to the Placer County Superior Court. The Legislature and Governor reduced state funding for the Judicial Branch by \$350 million in the Budget Act for the 2011–2012 Fiscal Year and reduced state funding for superior courts, specifically, by a total of \$600 million over the past three years.

In an effort to absorb reductions in its allocated state funding, the Placer County Superior Court has reduced its costs over this period by instituting employee layoffs and furloughs, closing two courtrooms, discontinuing funding for its Peer Court, discontinuing the Family Law Case Management program, reducing Self-Help Center hours, and reducing operating expenses. For example, the Court has cut expenditures for telecommunications, copiers, law books, online publications, and leased facilities.

Despite having taken such measures, the most recent state funding reductions, coupled with contractual, inflationary, and court caseload-related cost increases, would leave the Placer County Superior Court with a budget deficit of \$1,750,000 for the 2011/2012 Fiscal Year if further cost-savings measures are not implemented. Instituting the limited service days, outlined above, will save the Court between \$500,000 and \$550,000 during

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the current fiscal year. The Court is further addressing the current year deficit through changes in employee contributions towards retirement, freezing vacated positions, and other actions.

The Honorable Alan V. Pineschi, Presiding Judge of the Placer County Superior Court, had the following comment: "The Court is sensitive to the fact that reducing the court's services for twelve days a year impacts the public's access to justice in a full range of cases, including criminal cases, civil disputes, family law and custody matters, and juvenile cases. However, just like all the other courts in California that are dependent on state funding, the Placer County Superior Court must take cost-savings measures in light of the State's fiscal crisis. The cost-savings measures being adopted by our court are preferable to more drastic measures, such as permanently closing courtrooms, or laying off more court employees. We will appreciate the public's patience during the coming months."

On limited service days, only Department 13, the courtroom located at the Placer County Jail, 2775 Richardson Drive, Auburn, will remain open. That courtroom will handle criminal arraignments, certain time-sensitive juvenile proceedings, and any last day criminal matters. All other courtrooms and clerks' offices will be closed. Although the limited service days will not qualify as holidays for purposes of calculating statutory time requirements, a drop-box will be provided to permit same-day filings at all court locations that otherwise accept filings. Courtroom staff also will accept urgent non-criminal filings (e.g., petitions for restraining orders or injunctions) and the court will hear such matters in Department 13 if emergency circumstances warrant such action.

For the complete Public Notice regarding the limited service days or for more information, please visit <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/>.